

M.H



T/AU99/00729

U

09/786233

REC'D 19 OCT 1999

WIPO PCT

Patent Office
Canberra

I, LEANNE MYNOTT, TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION SUPPORT AND SALES hereby certify that annexed is a true copy of the Provisional specification in connection with Application No. PQ 2466 for a patent by REAL GUARDIAN PTY LTD filed on 26 August 1999.



WITNESS my hand this
Eighth day of October 1999

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Mynott'.

LEANNE MYNOTT
TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION
SUPPORT AND SALES

**PRIORITY
DOCUMENT**

SUBMITTED OR TRANSMITTED IN
COMPLIANCE WITH RULE 17.1(a) OR (b)

AUSTRALIA

PATENTS ACT 1990

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

FOR THE INVENTION ENTITLED:-

"AN APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING AN INDICATION OF A TIME INTERVAL"

The invention is described in the following statement:-

The present invention relates to an apparatus for providing an indication of a time interval and in particular to an apparatus for providing an indication of a time interval between a first group of people which is progressing about a course and a second group of people which is following the first group.

5 The invention has been developed primarily for use at golf courses, and will predominantly be described hereinafter with reference to that application. However, it will be appreciated that the invention is not limited to this particular field of use.

A common problem experienced when groups of people follow each other around a set course, for example at golf courses, is that some groups may be regarded by other
10 groups, and by the course management, as progressing too slowly. Various means of encouraging, and in some cases forcing, slow groups to speed up have been contemplated. However, these methods are frustrated by a fairly common belief among members of a slow group that they are not responsible for the slow progress as they are being held up by the group in front of them.

15 It is an object of the present invention to overcome or ameliorate at least one of the disadvantages of the prior art, or to provide a useful alternative.

According to a first aspect of the invention there is provided an apparatus for providing an indication of a time interval between a first group of people which is
progressing about a course and a second group of people which is following the first group,
20 the apparatus including:

an actuation means for providing respective actuating signals indicative of the presence of the first and the second group at a predetermined location on the course;

a calculation means being responsive to the actuating signals for providing a time signal indicative of the time interval between the actuating signals; and

display means for providing the second group with an indication of the time interval.

Preferably, the groups include one or more golfers and the course is a golf course.

- 5 More preferably, the actuation means is located at the predetermined location and the display means is disposed at or adjacent to the location for displaying information indicative of the time interval when the second group is proximal to the display means. Even more preferably, the apparatus includes a plurality of actuation means which are disposed at respective predetermined locations spaced apart on the golf course. Still more preferably,
- 10 the locations are passed by the groups during the normal course of play.

Preferably also, each location is at one of a respective: tee; green; fairway; between a green and a tee; or on a pathway traversed by the groups during the normal course of play.

- In a preferred form the indication of the time interval provided by the display means includes an indication as to whether the time interval is within a predetermined acceptable
- 15 range. Alternatively, or additionally, the indication of the time interval provided by the display means includes a quantification of the time interval.

Preferably, the display means is fixedly disposed at or adjacent to the location. In other embodiments, however, the display means is movable and carried by or moves with

the second group.

- 20 Preferably also, the apparatus includes a locating device for determining the position of the second group and the time elapsed since the first group was at that position. More preferably, the locating device is a GPS unit.